(b) and (c). Examined but not found feasible.

Functions of Indira Gandhi National Open University

1913. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in the context of acting as the controlling body at the national level in respect of distance education;

(b) whether distance education in various universities in still being controlled by the UGC;

(c) whether the Government propose to assign the responsibility of distance education to Indira Gandhi National Open University;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e). The Indira Gandhi National Open University, which was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, has been assigned the responsibility for coordination and promotion of the open university and distance eduction systems in the educational pattern of the country and for the coordination and determination of standards in such systems. For the purpose of performing these functions the University has also been conferred with powers to allocate and disburse grants to other Higher Education institutions. To enable it to discharge these responsibilities IGNOU has recently decided to establish a Distance Education Council (DEC) as statutory authority of the University.

The University Grants Commission, has the responsibility for coordination and determination of standards in Universities. The Commission has the authority to declare Open Universities fit for Central assistance and to provide financial assistance to such Universities and Institutes of Correspondence Studies in other Universities.

It is expected that with the establishment of the Distance Education Council, IGNOU would gradually assume greater responsibility for the development of the Open University and Distance Education systems in the Country.

Setting up of Mental Hospital in the Country

1914. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of mental hospitals in the country, State-wise;

(b) the intake capacity of each one of them and the actual number of patients admitted therein;

(c) the average expenditure incurred on each patient;

(d) whether the Government propose to build more mental hospitals; and

(e) if so, the number and places thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The number and names of mental hospitals in the country alongwith beds available in these are given in the statement enclosed.